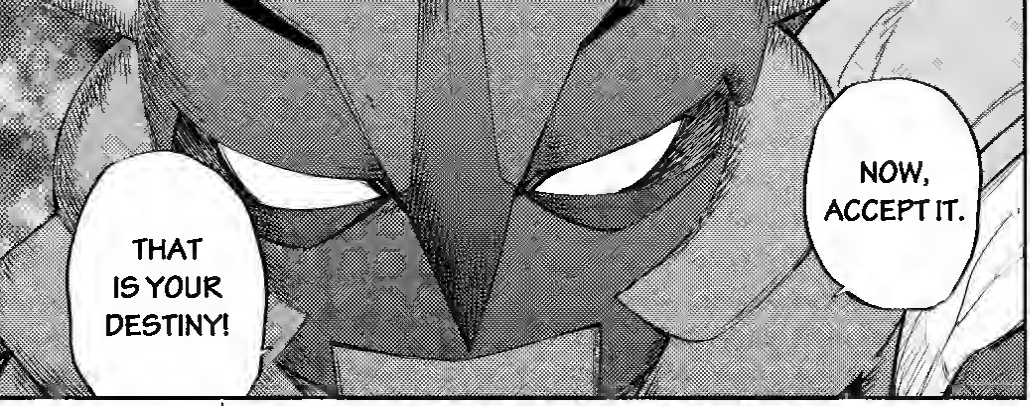
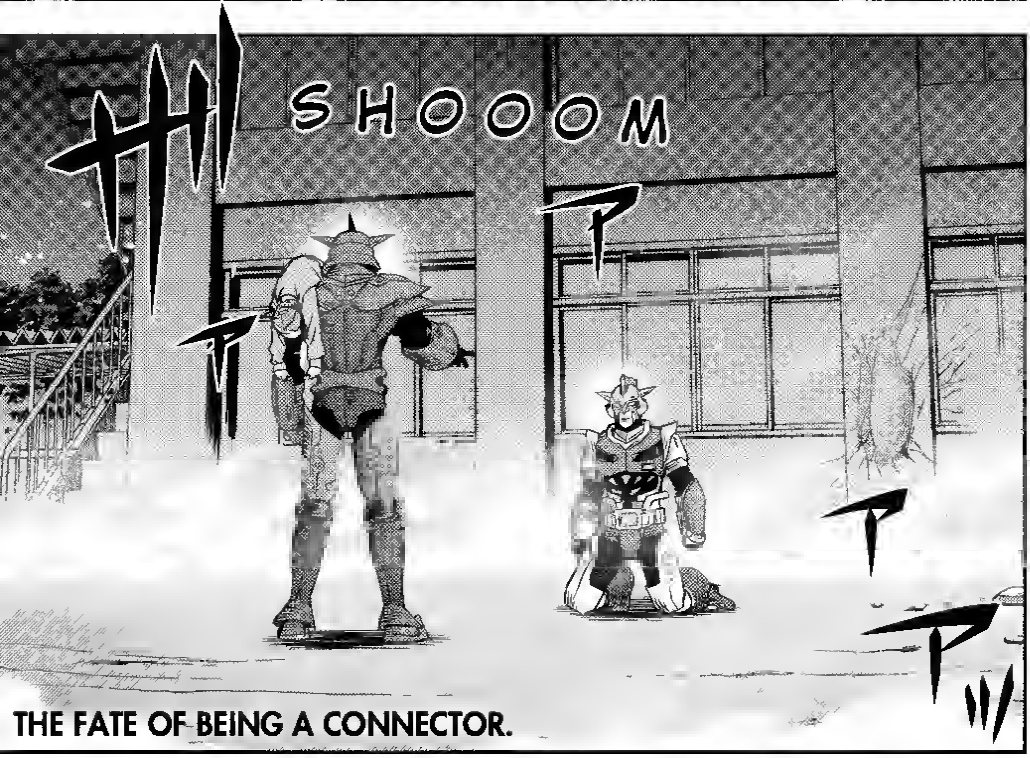
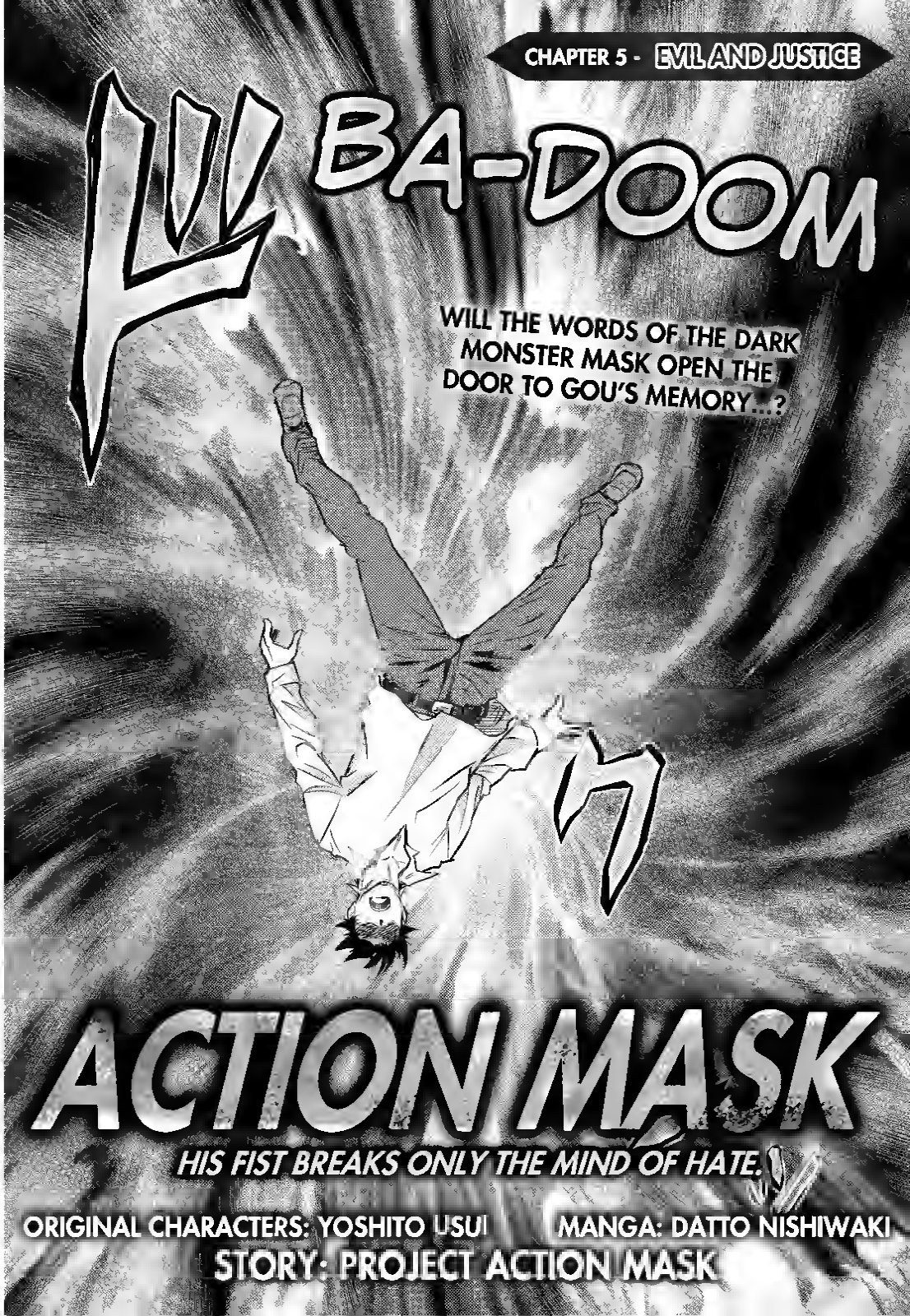

THAT IS YOUR DESTINY!
NOW, ACCEPT IT.

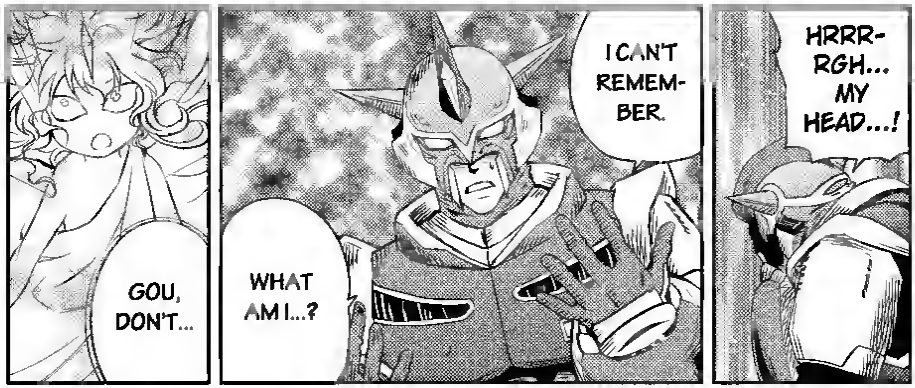

SHOOOM
THE FATE OF BEING A CONNECTOR.

BA-DOOM

MY...
MY DESTINY...?!

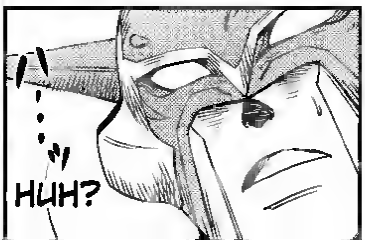

CHAPTER 5 - EVIL AND JUSTICE
BA-DOOM
WILL THE WORDS OF THE DARK MONSTER MASK OPEN THE DOOR TO GOU'S MEMORY...?
ACTION MASK
HIS FIST BREAKS ONLY THE MIND OF HATE.
ORIGINAL CHARACTERS: YOSHITO USUI
MANGA: DATTO NISHIWAKI
STORY: PROJECT ACTION MASK

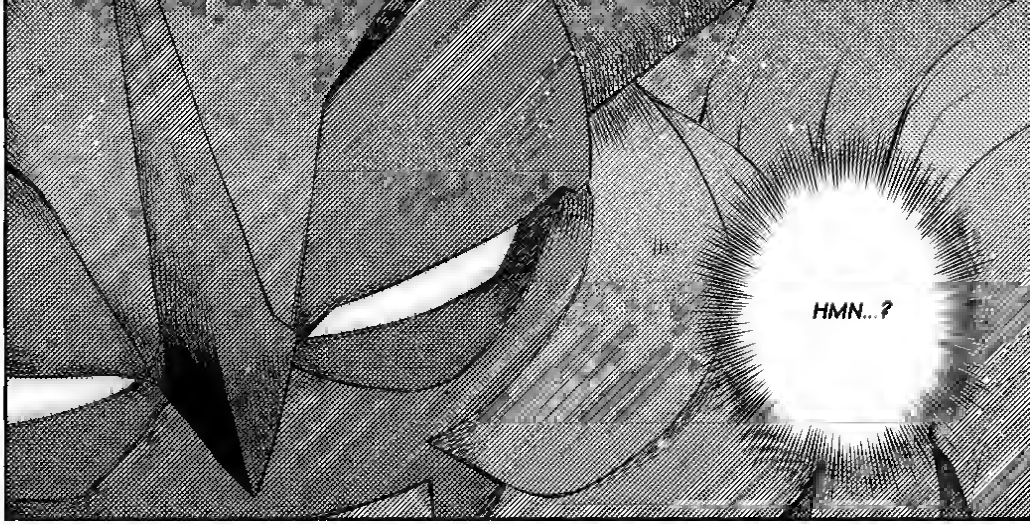
THROB
ズキッ

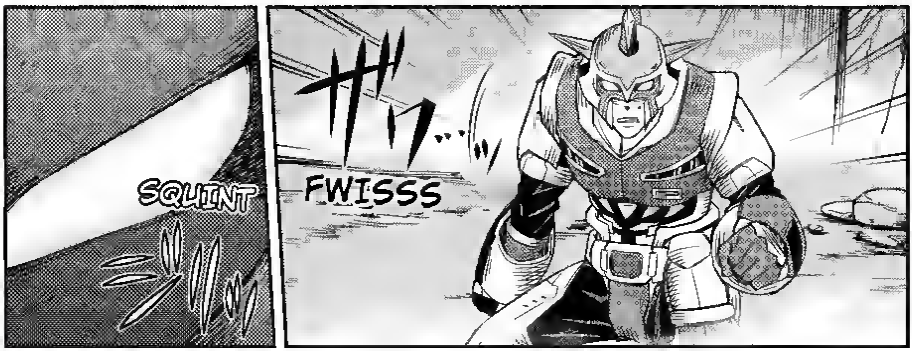

GOU, DON'T...
WHAT AM I...?
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
HRRR-RGH... MY HEAD...!

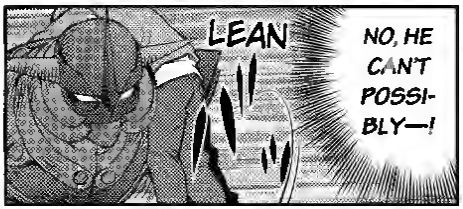
IF YOU COME WITH ME, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.
THAT YOU ARE OUR...!
BILLOW

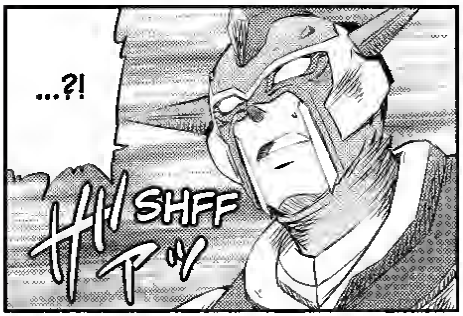
GRAB

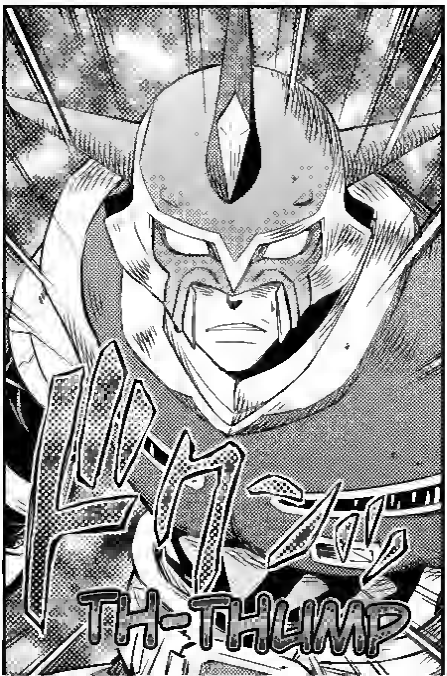

HUH?


HMN...?


SQUINT
FWISSS


LEAN
NO, HE CAN'T POSSI-BLY—!


...?!
SHFF


TH-THUMP

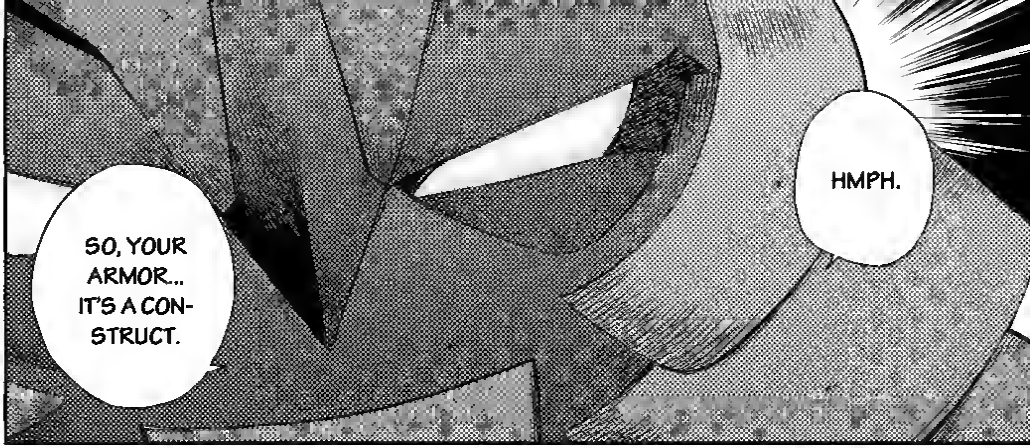
CLANGGG
HRAH!
TOSS
SHUFFF
SHWOOM
WHUMP
HUHN...?

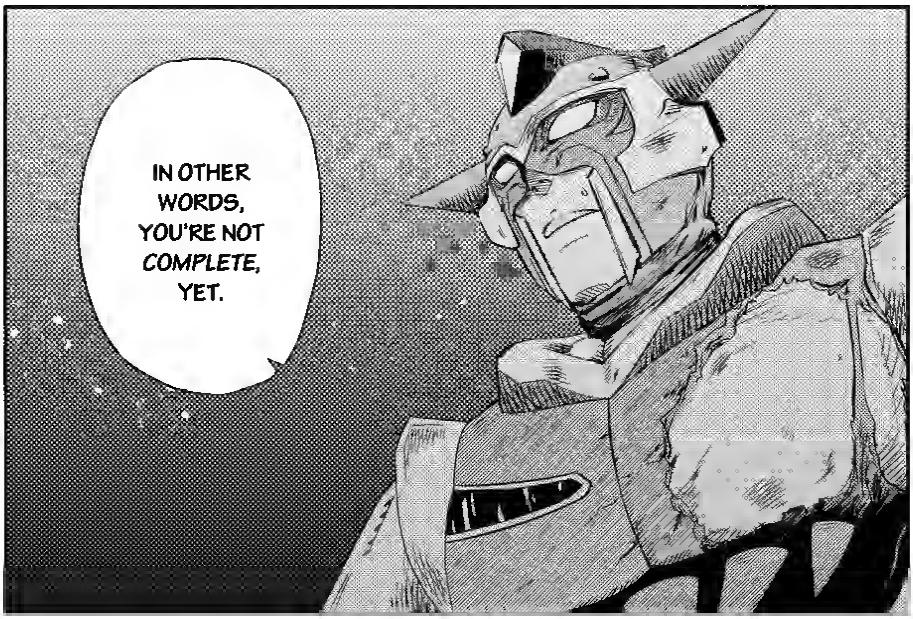
DARK BEAM!
ROOOAR
GOU! DODGE IT!

UGH!
BOOOOM
HRR-
RGH?!
SCRAPE
GOU?!

THROB
THROB
SHUFF
BZAK
BZAK
SHAK
SHAK
GRAB

RRRIP
WHAT?!
...!
BA-DOOM


HMPH.
SO, YOUR ARMOR... IT'S A CONSTRUCT.


IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE NOT *COMPLETE*, YET.

I SEE.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT "TIME," YET.
HEH

...?

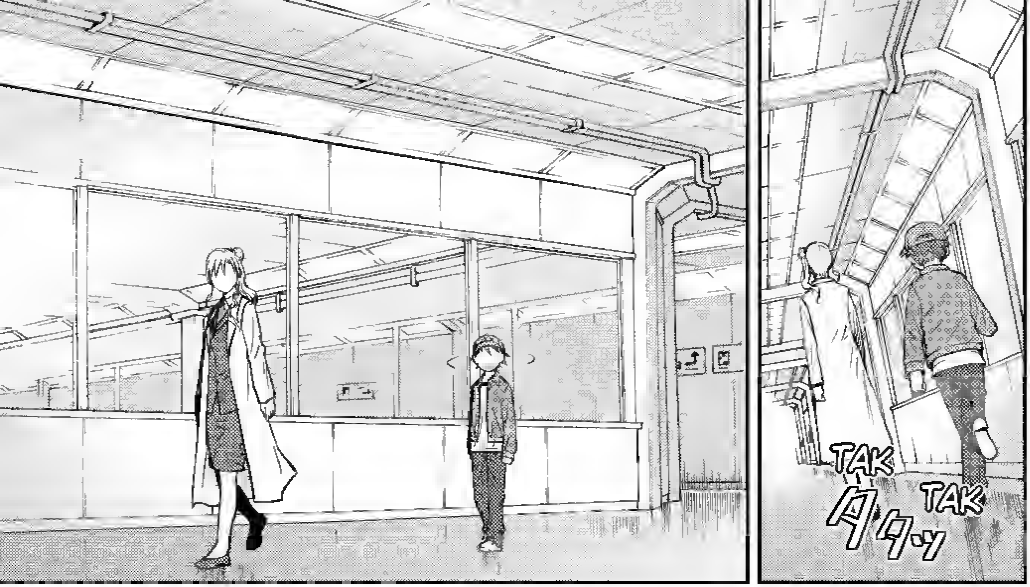
COMPLETE...?

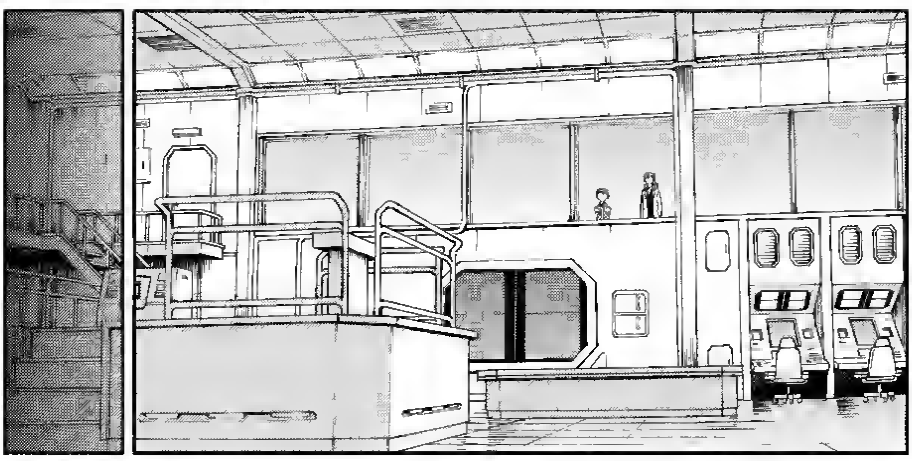
VERY WELL... I'LL WITHDRAW FOR TODAY.
SHAKK
W-WAIT!
LURCH
UNTIL NEXT WE MEET, *MATURE* FOR ME
SMIRK

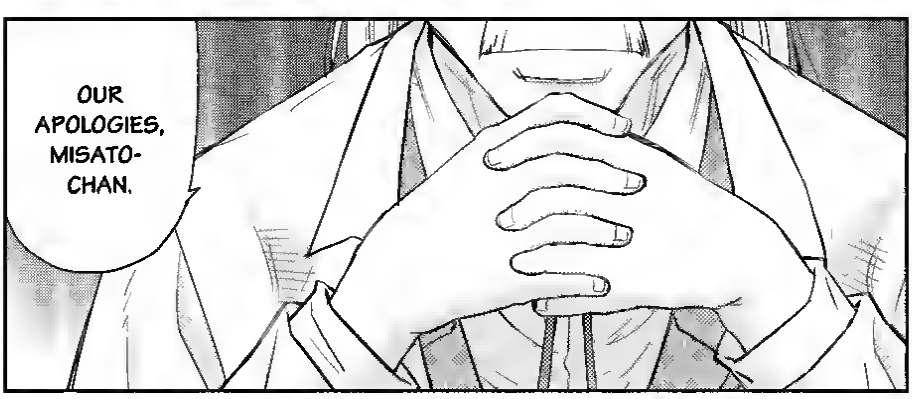
WHOOM
COLLAPSE
GRIT
GOU...!
THUD

Medical Office
ABK
...NOTHING SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER.
YOU'RE GOOD TO GO.
PHEW... IN ANY CASE, THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE GOT NO INJURIES.
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A DISASTER.
HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
.....
AKIHABARA
Kamen

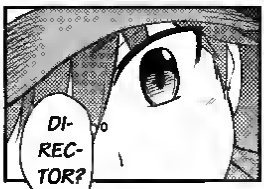
I ONLY SAW A LITTLE OF IT, BUT THAT BLACK ONE...IT LOOKED JUST LIKE ACTION MASK.
HUTABA Kamen
WHAT IS THAT GUY?
COULD HE BE RELATED TO THOSE MANTIS AND CENTIPEDE MONSTERS?
SLIIIDE
VERY WELL. COME WITH ME.
I'LL HAVE THE DOCTOR TELL YOU.
I SUP-POSE SO.
AT THIS POINT, SINCE WE'VE INVOLVED YOU IN THIS, IT MAY BE BETTER THAT YOU KNOW.

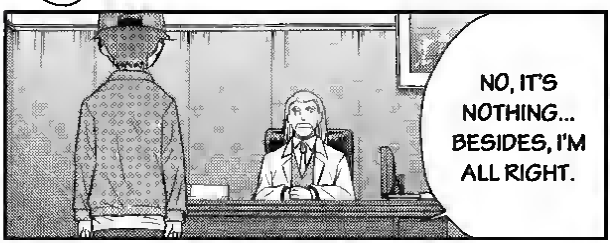

TAK
タ・タ・ッ
TAK

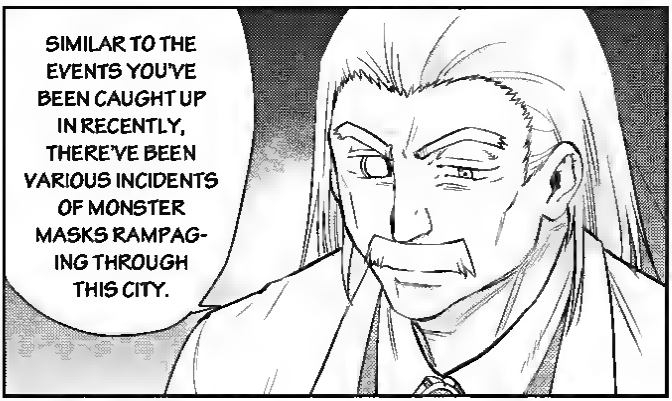


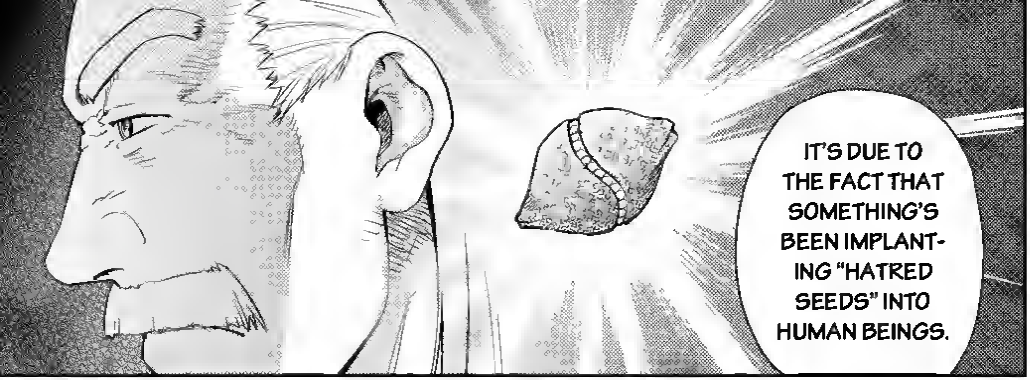

OUR APOLOGIES, MISATO-CHAN.

*DIRECTOR - KITAKUSAKABE

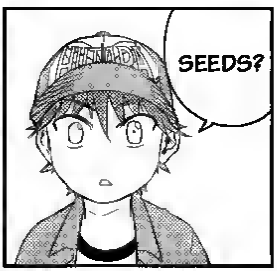


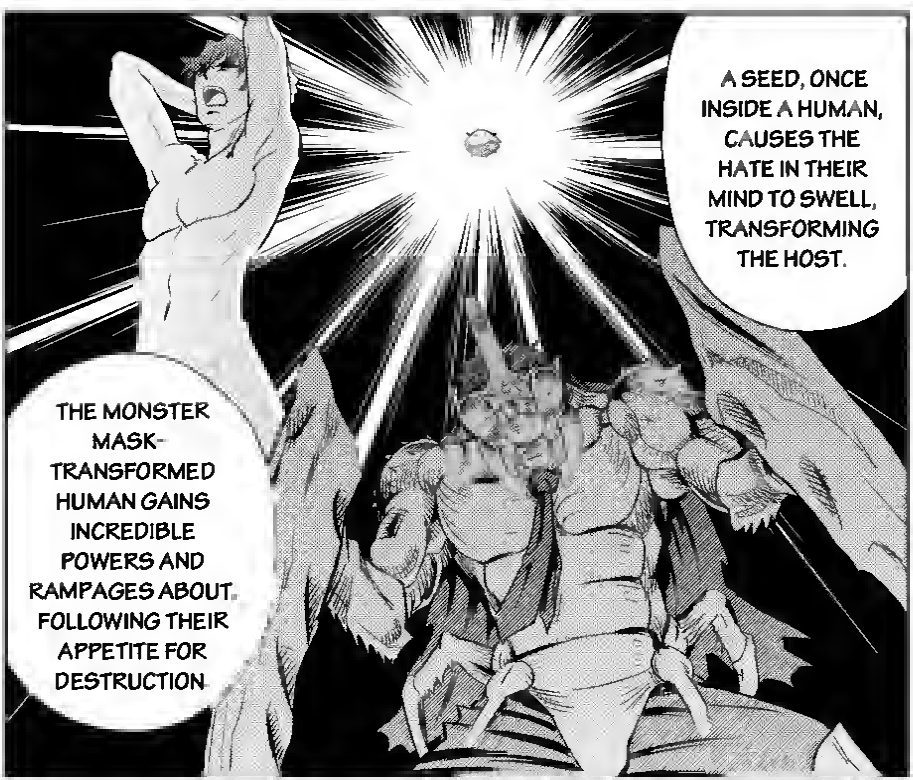


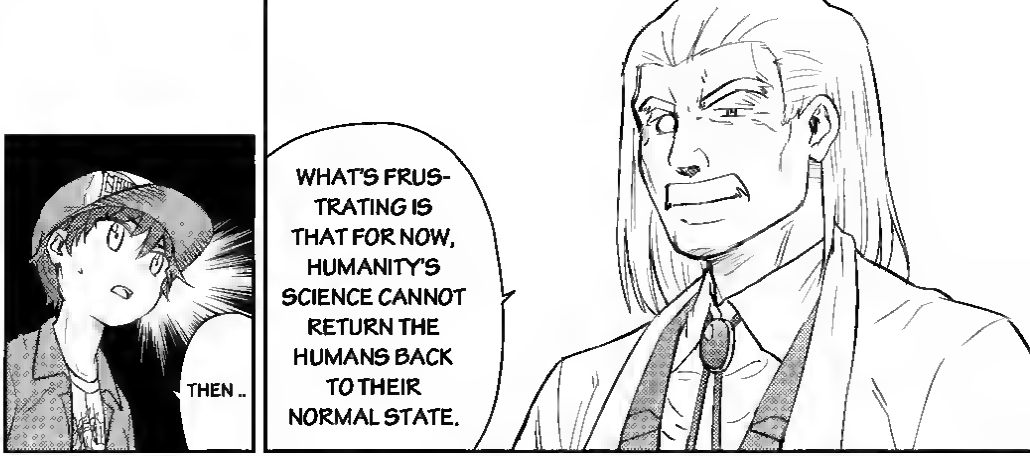

SIMILAR TO THE EVENTS YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN RECENTLY, THERE'VE BEEN VARIOUS INCIDENTS OF MONSTER MASKS RAMPAGING THROUGH THIS CITY.


IT'S DUE TO THE FACT THAT SOMETHING'S BEEN IMPLANTING "HATRED SEEDS" INTO HUMAN BEINGS.

MM-HMM... WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING, BUT THEY'RE BELIEVED TO BE AN UNKNOWN MATERIAL, NOT OF THIS PLANET.


SEEDS?


A SEED, ONCE INSIDE A HUMAN, CAUSES THE HATE IN THEIR MIND TO SWELL, TRANSFORMING THE HOST.
THE MONSTER MASK-TRANSFORMED HUMAN GAINS INCREDIBLE POWERS AND RAMPAGES ABOUT, FOLLOWING THEIR APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION.

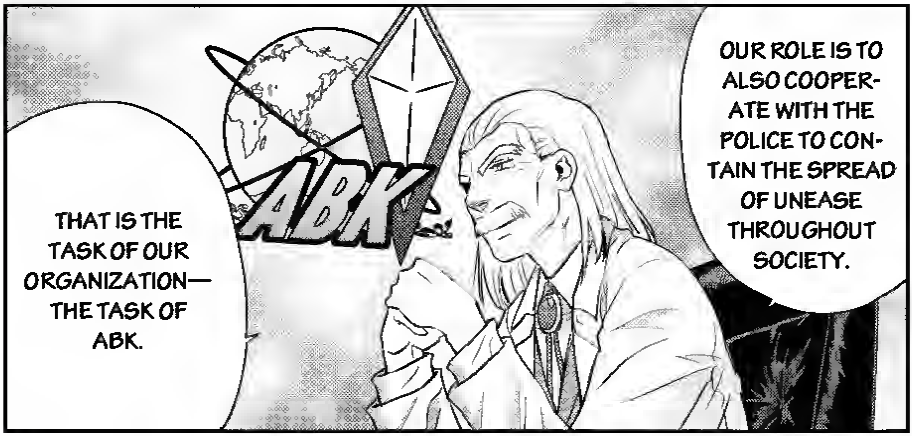

THEN ..
WHAT'S FRUSTRATING IS THAT FOR NOW, HUMANITY'S SCIENCE CANNOT RETURN THE HUMANS BACK TO THEIR NORMAL STATE.

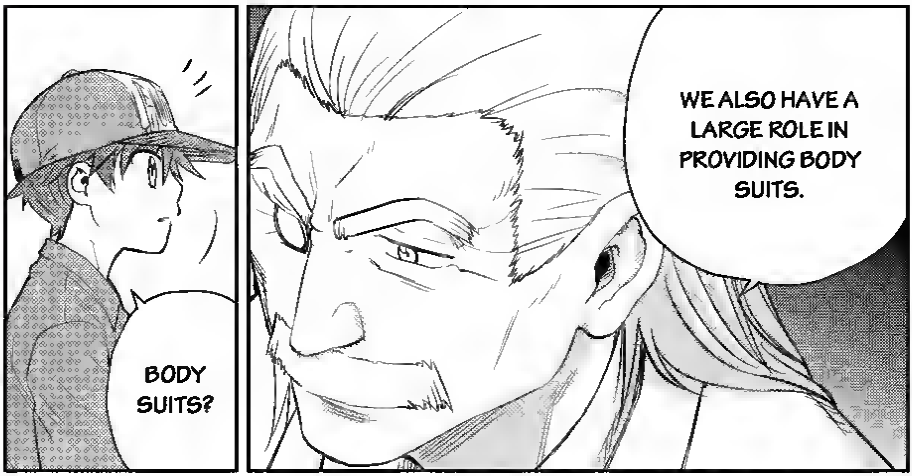
NO WAY... THEN THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN, IS...

THAT CAN'T BE...
THAT'S RIGHT... THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PURIFY THE SEEDS IS ACTION MASK'S BEAM.

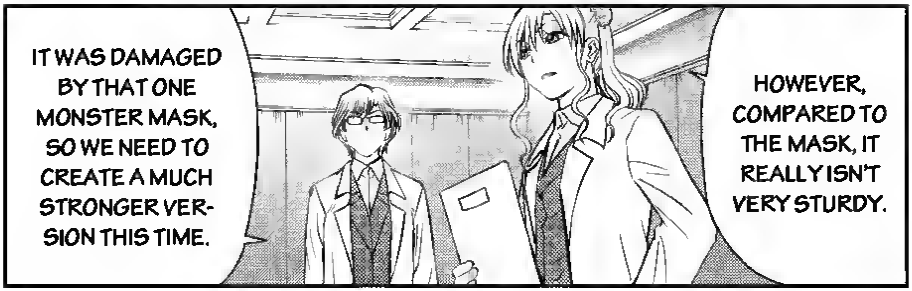
BUT...
ANOTHER LIFE FORM IS RESIDING INSIDE HIM.
WHAT?!
WHAT IS GOU, ANYWAY?
IS HE AN ALIEN OR SOMETHING...?
GOU'S A REGULAR HUMAN.
IT'S A LIFE FORM FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN HUMANITY.
GOU CALLS IT "BAL."
BAL...
THAT'S THE REALITY BEHIND EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR OF GOU AND ACTION MASK.
.....
...AND ONLY HE CAN PURIFY THE HATRED SEED PLANTED WITHIN OUR TARGETS.
ONLY GOU CAN FUSE WITH BAL TO TRANSFORM INTO ACTION MASK...

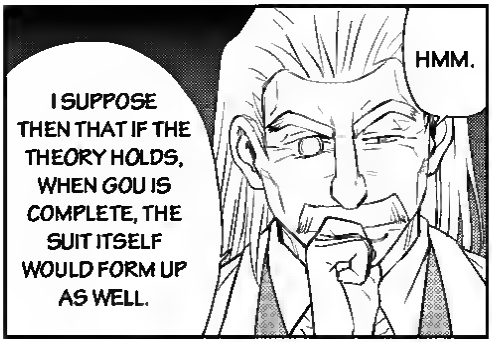
HEALTH CHECKS AND SUPPORT, ETC... WE ALSO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON OUR OWN AS AN ORGANIZATION.
WE BACK UP GOU ON HIS EXPLOITS.


THAT IS THE TASK OF OUR ORGANIZATION— THE TASK OF ABK.
ABK
OUR ROLE IS TO ALSO COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF UNEASE THROUGHOUT SOCIETY.


BODY SUITS?
WE ALSO HAVE A LARGE ROLE IN PROVIDING BODY SUITS.

IN ACTUALITY, ONLY THE MASK FORMS WHEN GOU AND BAL FUSE.
THE REST OF THE BODY REMAINS AS IT WAS, SO EVERYTHING BELOW THE NECK IS LEFT UNDEFENDED.
THAT'S WHY WE CREATED HIS BODY SUIT TO COMPENSATE.


IT WAS DAMAGED BY THAT ONE MONSTER MASK, SO WE NEED TO CREATE A MUCH STRONGER VERSION THIS TIME.
HOWEVER, COMPARED TO THE MASK, IT REALLY ISN'T VERY STURDY.

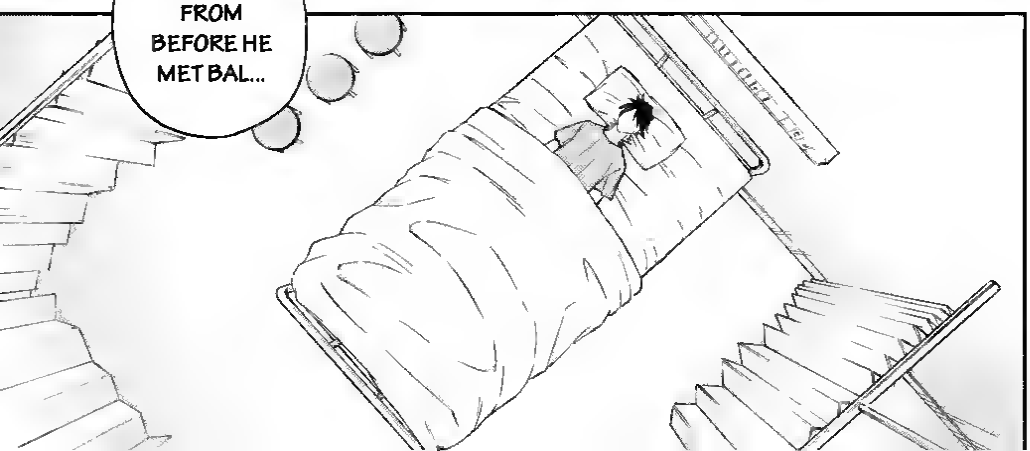

HMM.
I SUPPOSE THEN THAT IF THE THEORY HOLDS, WHEN GOU IS COMPLETE, THE SUIT ITSELF WOULD FORM UP AS WELL.

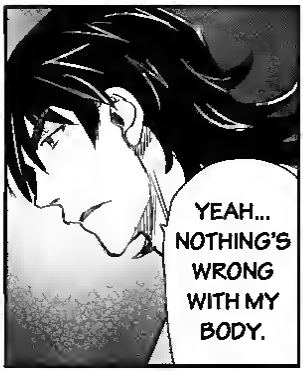
I GET IT... THAT'S WHY THAT BLACK THING SAID GOU WASN'T "COMPLETE."

THE ONE WHO'S BEEN IMPLANTING HATRED SEEDS INTO PEOPLE IS PROBABLY THAT DARK MASK.
AN ENTIRELY BLACK MASK THAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES ACTION MASK... I SEE.
FOR THE TIME BEING, WHY NOT CALL HIM THE "DARK MASK."
GASP
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN WHEN GOU IS ALREADY SHOULDERING A GREAT BURDEN... TO MAKE HIM SHOULDER AN EVEN GREATER CHALLENGE...
A TROUBLE-SOME FOE HAS AR-RIVED.
THEY'RE OKAY.
THEY WERE BOTH IN A TIGHT SPOT, BUT THEIR LIVES AREN'T IN DANGER.
ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH GOU?
HOW ABOUT FUKIAGE-SENSEI?

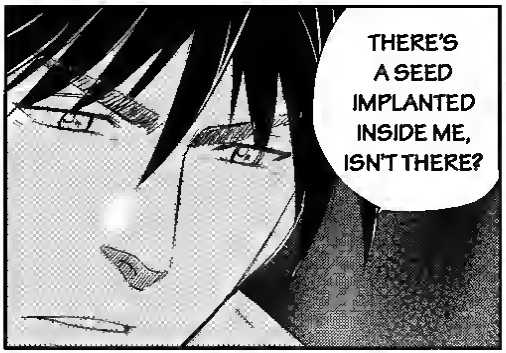
IT'S JUST THAT... GOU'S MENTAL STATE WAS A LITTLE SCRAMBLED, SO WE'RE RESTING HIM UP IN THE QUIET ROOM.

GOU'S LOST ALL MEMORY OF HIS PAST.


MEMORIES FROM BEFORE HE MET BAL...


YEAH... NOTHING'S WRONG WITH MY BODY.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GOU?
WHOON


THERE'S A SEED IMPLANTED INSIDE ME, ISN'T THERE?

HEY... BAL?
CREAK

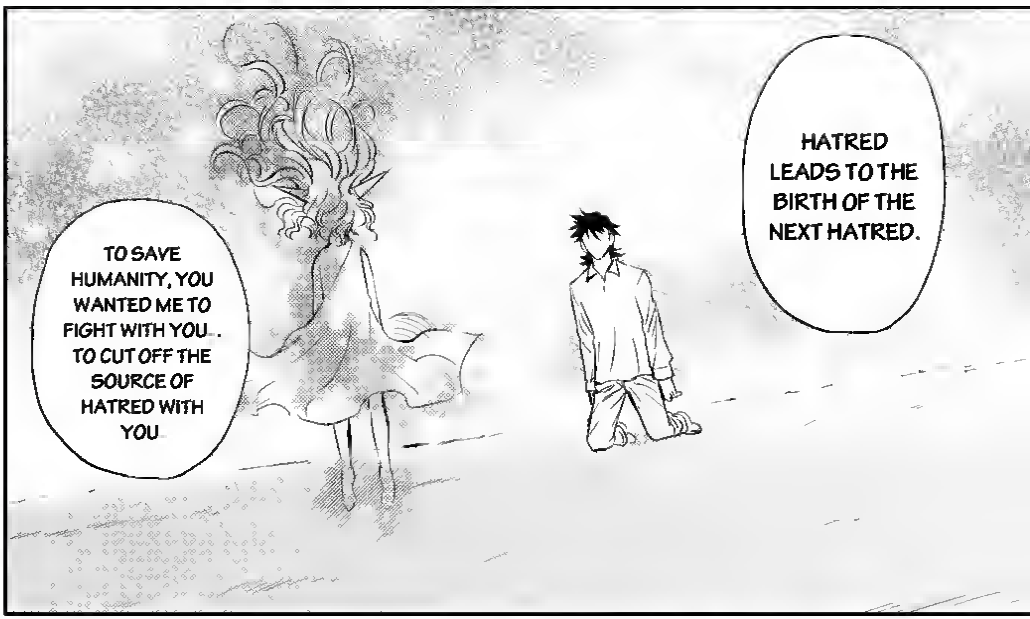
NOD
コク...

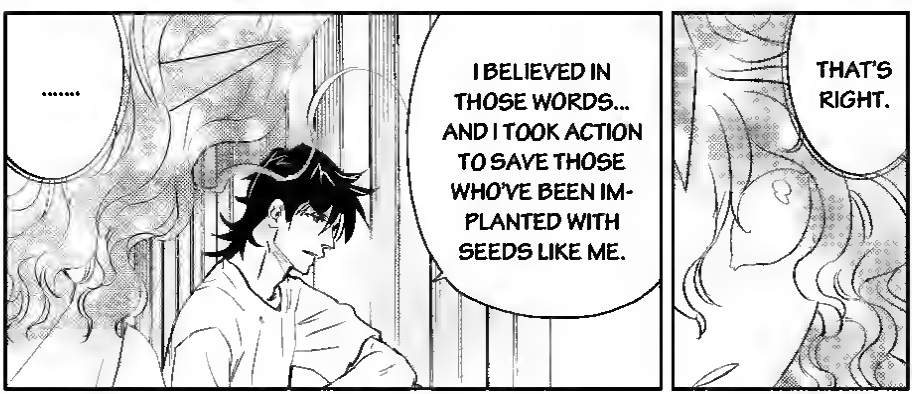
UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN FIGHTING WITHOUT HATE IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SEED INSIDE ME FROM SPROUTING.
AND I BELIEVED THAT SQUASHING HATE WAS THE SORT OF JUSTICE NEEDED TO SAVE THIS PLANET.

BUT WHAT WAS IT THAT THE BLACK ONE SAID?
HE SAID THAT I WAS ONE OF THEM... A "CONNECTOR."

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, GOU.

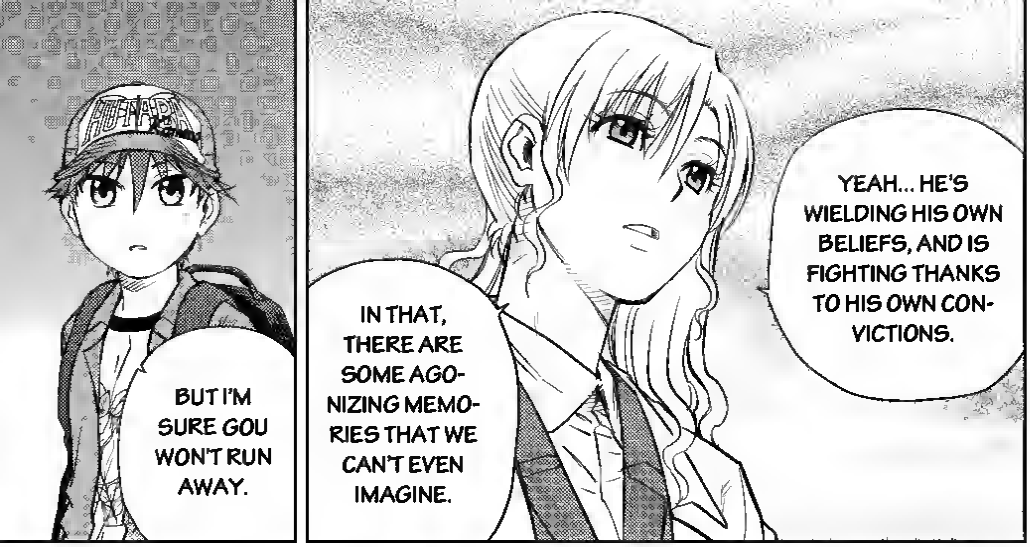
...JUST WHEN I HAD BEEN IMPLANTED AND WAS ABOUT TO BE TRAPPED IN HATE, YOU SAID SOMETHING TO ME.
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...


TO SAVE HUMANITY, YOU WANTED ME TO FIGHT WITH YOU. TO CUT OFF THE SOURCE OF HATRED WITH YOU.
HATRED LEADS TO THE BIRTH OF THE NEXT HATRED.

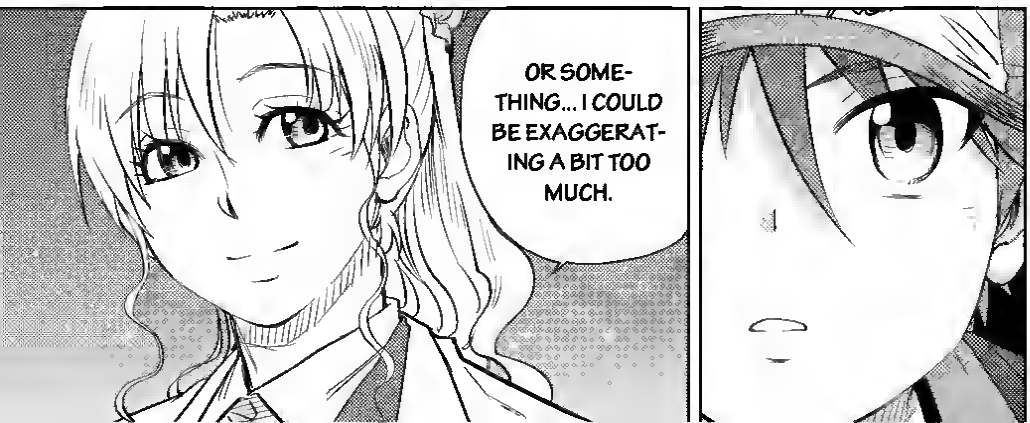

.....
I BELIEVED IN THOSE WORDS... AND I TOOK ACTION TO SAVE THOSE WHO'VE BEEN IMPLANTED WITH SEEDS LIKE ME.
THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF BEFORE I MET YOU.
COULD IT BE THAT THE OLD ME... WASN'T A VICTIM BUT A PERPETRATOR? THAT I WAS ONE WHO IMPLANTED SEEDS INTO OTHERS, LIKE THE BLACK MASK?
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT, I START TO FEAR MYSELF.
WITHOUT A DOUBT, YOU ARE A "HERO OF JUSTICE."
YOU AND I ARE FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO SAVE HUMANITY.

I GET IT, BAL.
GOU KEPT FIGHTING AFTER BEING BEATEN TO A PULP LIKE THAT.
HEY.


BUT I'M SURE GOU WON'T RUN AWAY.
IN THAT, THERE ARE SOME AGONIZING MEMORIES THAT WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.
YEAH... HE'S WIELDING HIS OWN BELIEFS, AND IS FIGHTING THANKS TO HIS OWN CONVICTIONS.

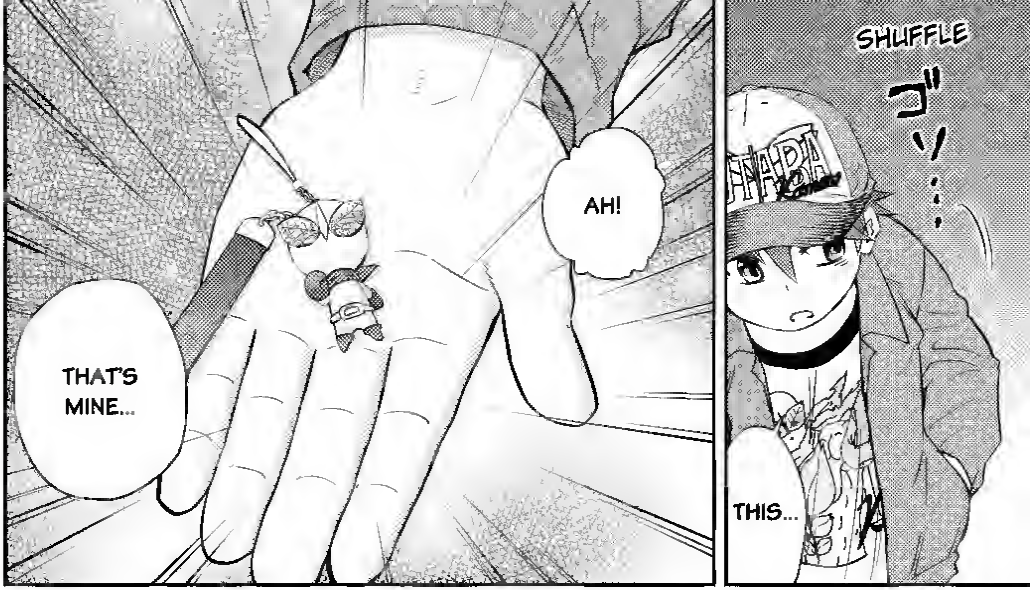
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A HERO OF JUSTICE.

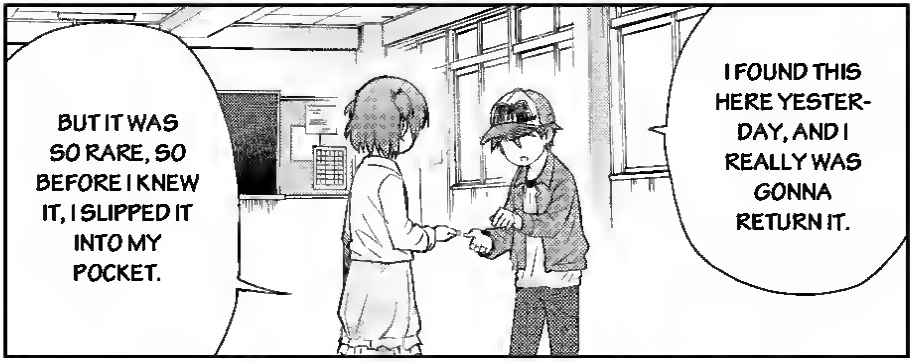

OR SOMETHING... I COULD BE EXAGGERATING A BIT TOO MUCH.

SO A HERO OF JUSTICE DOESN'T RUN AWAY... HUH.
OKAY.

I'M SORRY!

WHISPER
EH?!
WHISPER

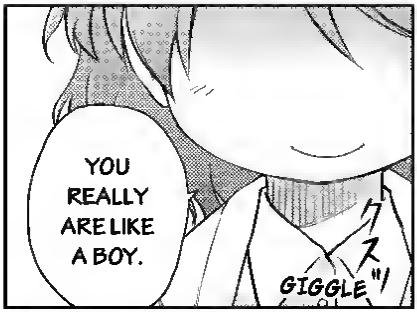

AH!
THAT'S MINE...
SHUFFLE
THIS...

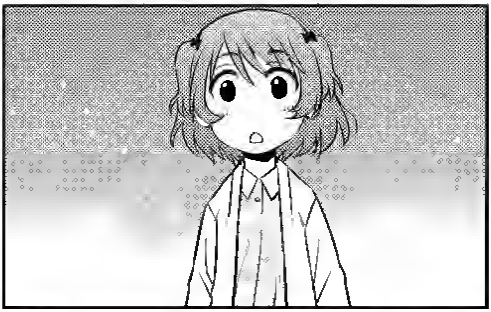

I FOUND THIS HERE YESTERDAY, AND I REALLY WAS GONNA RETURN IT.
BUT IT WAS SO RARE, SO BEFORE I KNEW IT, I SLIPPED IT INTO MY POCKET.

ON TOP OF THAT, WHEN YOU ASKED IF I'D SEEN IT, I LIED AND SAID, "NO I HAVEN'T."
I WAS THE WORST.
I'M REALLY SORRY!

OKAY, I GET IT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
.....
UMM...
CAN I MAKE IT UP TO...?
AH...!
UH...
NAH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
BUT I STILL CAN'T LIVE WITH IT!

I DON'T THINK IT'LL COUNT AS WRITING OFF MY CRIME... BUT I MUST RECEIVE SOME KIND OF PUNISHMENT!
BOW
I KNOW. AT LEAST SOCK IT TO ME ONCE!
HUTABA
Kamen


YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A BOY.
GIGGLE



Kamen
CLENCH

I GET IT, THEN... ONE PUNCH, ONLY.
HMPH

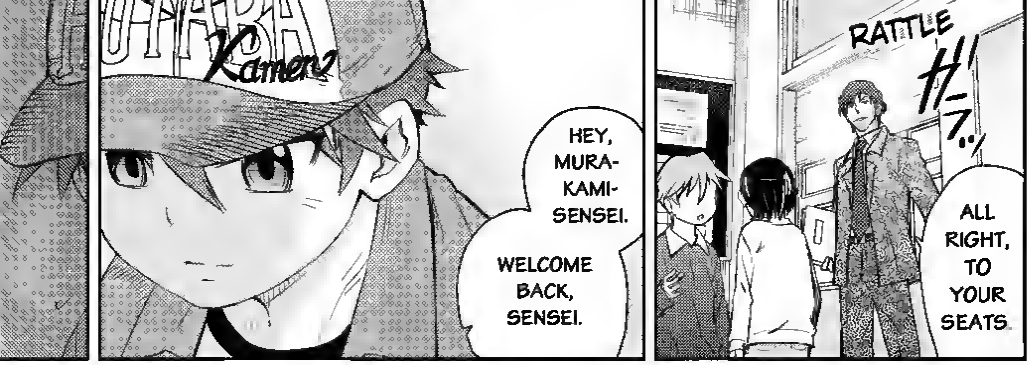
LET'S GO! THE ULTI-MATE...
THE HAMMER OF JUSTICE FALLS UPON YOU!

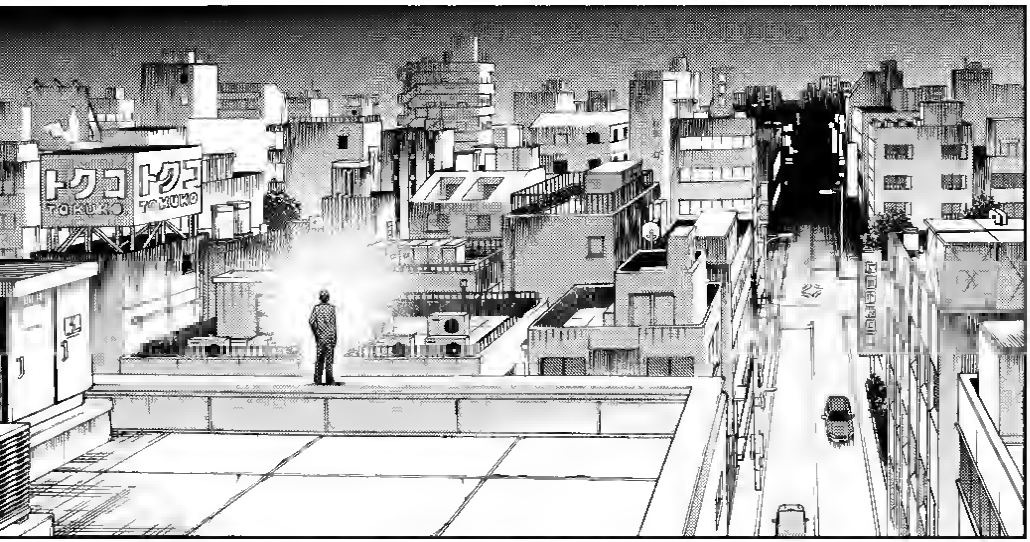
CLONK
コツンッ
TWINLEAF PUNCH!

'KAY.
ALL SETTLED, NOW.
HUH?

.....
HUHAHA
Kamen?

"WHAT'S WRONG IS THAT ONE RUNS AWAY WITHOUT CORRECTING THAT FAILURE."
"WHAT'S WRONG ISN'T THAT ONE FAILED."
SEE, TWIN-LEAF MASK SAID THIS, TOO—
B-BUT...
RIGHT?
YASHIO-SAN DEMON-STRATED THAT BELIEF PER-FECTLY.
THAT'S WHY I FEEL ALL'S FORGIVEN.
ニコッ
SMILE
THANKS...
UH, YEAH.


Kamen2
HEY, MURA-KAMI-SENSEI.
WELCOME BACK, SENSEI.
RATTLE
ALL RIGHT, TO YOUR SEATS.


トクコ
TOKUKO
トクコ
TOKUKO

WELL, NOW.
LET'S REALLY UP THE NUMBER OF PLANTS THIS TIME AROUND.
HMPH...
FLICK

FWISHH
COME ON... HOW LONG CAN YOU STAND...
...AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF THE SHACKLES OF HATRED PILING UPON YOU?
SHOW IT TO ME, ACTION MASK.
WOOM
"ARE THOSE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS...?!"
D-DOOM
AN INVITATION TO A WORLD OF DARKNESS?!